REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1 and 6-10 are rejected. Claims 2-5, 11 and 12 are objected to. Claims 13 and 14 are withdrawn. Claim 2 is amended. Claims 1, 6-10 and 13 and 14 are cancelled. Claims 2-5, 11 and 12 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,991,949, issued to Muroyama et al. In response, Applicant has cancelled Claim 1 and rewritten Claim 2 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, i.e., cancelled Claim 1. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly upon independent Claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable over the prior art.

Additionally, Applicant has cancelled withdrawn Claims 13 and 14.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all outstanding requirements have been complied with and the claims pending for examination, namely claims 2-5, 11 and 12 are now in condition for allowance, which early action is requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 12/18/06

By: _____

Eric S. Hyman Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 12/19/06.

Linda Metz 12/19/06

Linda Metz Date